

July 5, 1949.

Dr. T. R. Hogness,  
Director, Institute of  
Radiobiology & Biophysics,  
University of Chicago,  
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Hogness:

Thank you for inviting me to present Louis Slotin Memorial Lectures for 1949-50. I could not but feel honored by this invitation.

I would be very pleased to accept this proposal, but must first ask for clarification of certain matters.

Most important, I wonder a little whether I would be competent to lecture on any subject of direct radiobiological interest. My experimental acquaintance with radiations has been confined entirely to their empirical application in the production of mutants in bacteria. I would be delighted to present a sequence of lectures at your Institute on the techniques, methodology, and current information of the genetics of bacteria, but I am somewhat apprehensive as to the relevance of this topic to the program of the Memorial Lectures. If you have any hesitation on this issue, comparable to my own, I would be pleased that the invitation be withdrawn.

Secondly, assuming that all else go well, I would like to know how freely I might schedule the talks, especially as concerns evening and Saturday presentations. I will be teaching this Fall, and would have to present the lectures in an interval from Thursday evening through Monday afternoon. I would also like to know something of the prospective audience. To an audience composed to any extent of workers who are not pursuing problems in microbial genetics, I would prefer to offer only two lectures. I would spend a third on detailed problems of technique, but would feel comfortable presenting this only to a specialized audience. If only two lectures are given, I would not object to a corresponding reduction in the honorarium, if this is regulated by some statute.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,  
Assistant Professor of Genetics.